Artist Biography – Martine Jacobs (Amsterdam, 1956)

Martine Jacobs is a Dutch pastel artist and early digital art pioneer whose practice unites craftsmanship, spirituality, and social engagement. Working primarily with pastel pencils and chalk, she creates emotionally charged drawings that capture not only images, but also narratives and inner states of being. After studying at the Wackers Academy in Amsterdam, Jacobs developed a distinctive figurative style that ranges from dreamlike landscapes and still lifes to characterful animal portraits. Her work frequently addresses social and spiritual themes, such as compassion, freedom, and collective grief. This is exemplified in her series of pastel drawings reflecting on the events of 9/11. Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, Jacobs gained international recognition with exhibitions in cities including Barcelona, Berlin, Osaka, and Saint Petersburg, and she was invited to participate in the Florence Biennale. Her works are represented in private and institutional collections, including the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam. Parallel to her analogue practice, Jacobs emerged as one of the first Dutch female artists to experiment with the internet as an artistic platform. From the mid-1990s onward, she launched international online exhibitions and presented large thematic digital series such as *The Woman Cries Blood* and her Buddha works (1998–2006). Her websites of the early 2000s attracted more than 100,000 visitors — a remarkable achievement in the pre–social media era — situating her among the pioneering generation of net-based artists. Today, Jacobs continues to exhibit both physically and digitally. She shares her practice with her partner Hans through their collaborative platform *The Art Cabinet of Martine and Hans Jacobs*. “Art, to me, is not just aesthetics — it is a bridge to the inner life.”